

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references of record is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments.

Rice teaches a system that produces amplified Raman scattered light and effectively teaches away from the invention because it uses a continuous wave signal. See, for example, the disclosure of Rice at column 3, at lines 6, 7. In contrast, the invention is a fiber system that amplifies seed pulses that are not Raman radiation.

Richardson's system does not provide the parallel channels of applicant's claimed system, and his system is not amenable to modification to provide the multiple parallel channels as in applicant's invention.

The system Waarts also teaches away from the claimed invention because it relies on pump synchronization to eliminate the need for acoustic-optical gates, which are employed in applicant's invention.

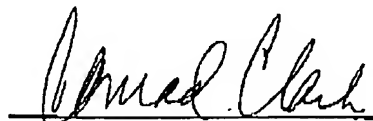
DiGiovanni's teaching of tapered fibers does not fill any of the deficiencies mentioned above.

Accordingly, the references of record actually teach away from the invention as claimed and would not have made it obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

All necessary extensions of time are requested. Please charge any fee deficiency to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 8, 2009